

Message Text

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FOR IBS/NCA COVERAGE, IBS/PA, IOR/M, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SOMALIA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN ENDS

OCTOBER STAR, FEBRUARY 23 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL TITLED "THE VICTORIES OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS" WHICH ANNOUNCED THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF SOMALIA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN. EXCERPTS AS FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS) - SOMALIA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN WAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED FEBRUARY 22, 1975. THE CAMPAIGN WAS MAINLY FOR THE ALPHABETIZATION OF THE RURAL POPULATION, MASS VACCINATION OF THE PEOPLE, AND A LIVESTOCK CENSUS. THIS TASK WAS FULFILLED MOSTLY BY SECONDARY AND INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS IN THEIR 'TEENS; SECONDARY AND INTERMEDIATE TEACHERS ALSO PLAYED A RESPONSIBLE ROLE...

THE AIM BEHIND THE RDC WAS TO AQUAINTI ILLITERATE NOMADS AND PEASANT FARMERS WITH THE NEW SOMALI SCRIPT...WE HAVE SCORED VICTORIES IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLITERACY, THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND RAISING THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE RURAL MASSES. THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS LEARNED A LOT ABOUT SOMALI CULTURE IN ITS PUREST FORM AND NOW UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S RURAL POPULATION. EQUALLY IMPORTANT

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HAS BEEN THE CREATION OF MUTUAL FEELINGS RESULTING FROM

COOPERATION AND JOINT EFFORT BY STUDENTS AND THE RURAL SOCIETY...

(END EXCERPTS).

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